



Seattle City Council 2010 accomplishments

"Promises made and promises kept"

BUILD A LIVABLE CITY FOR OUR FUTURE

Economic Recovery

- Established New Market Tax Credits Program and authorized first Recovery Zone Bond allocation.
- Supported establishment of the "Only in Seattle" marketing campaign that encourages residents to buy locally and promotes Seattle's unique neighborhood business districts.
- Authorized continued implementation of the City's Community Power Works program, which leverages \$20 million of federal stimulus funding to bring energy-saving retrofits to individual homes and business. This program includes a significant focus on work force development and training potential employees for this emerging field of work.
- Created a Freight Advisory Board and Seattle Music Commission.
- Approved revised zoning policy in South Lake Union to promote biotech industry.

Development

- Completed a major amendment to the Lowrise Multifamily Code to improve building design, allow greater variety of housing types, and encourage sustainable development.
- Approved legislation to provide policy direction for the implementation of 2009 Housing Levy Programs and the creation of the 2009 Housing Levy Oversight Committee.
- Modified development standards to encourage adaptive re-use of existing buildings in the Duwamish Manufacturing/Industrial Center.
- Rezoned areas of the Ballard Hub Urban Village primarily from General Industrial to Industrial Commercial to allow more flexibility in allowed uses and higher employment density.
- Advanced proposals for changing zoning and land use rules designed to foster redevelopment in the South Downtown area.
- Adopted legislation that gives the City the ability to establish a rental housing inspection program to improve housing conditions for renters.

Partnership

- Continued to pro-actively build relationships with elected officials from within the region and across the State.
- Proposed new policies that were adopted by King County Transit Task Force to prioritize transit service in areas with current or planned densities that support transit ridership.
- Collaborated with jurisdictions in King County to update the Countywide Planning Policies and include policies addressing climate change and healthy communities for the first time.
- Secured a funding commitment for the Seawall Replacement Project from the King County Flood District.

Waste Reduction

- Established a program to allow Seattle residents to opt-out of receiving telephone directories.
- Implemented new rules to minimize waste from food service ware, established mandatory multi-family compost service and authorized an every-other-week garbage collection pilot program.

Carbon Neutrality

- Advanced Council's goal of creating a carbon neutral city by hosting a series of community discussions including community driven presentations to the City Council designed to better define the concept and to identify specific near-term actions.
- Initiated an update of the City's Climate Action Plan and a citywide carbon analysis as the groundwork for a plan to achieving carbon neutrality.
- Approved legislative initiatives (detailed in other sections of this document) to increase density, support transportation choices, further clean energy development, and foster the growth of green jobs.

History and Culture

- Adopted updated design guidelines for the Pike/Pine and Northgate neighborhoods.
- Provided funding for a one-time competitive allocation of capital dollars for local arts organizations.
- Restored historic preservation staff cuts proposed by the Mayor's budget and approved 20 new building landmark designations.

FOSTER SAFE, JUST AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES FOR ALL

Schools and Education

- Provided on-going oversight of implementation of the existing Families and Education Levy.
- Continued work in partnership with the Seattle School District to develop a proposal for a renewal and expansion of the Families and Education Levy.

Public Safety

- Completed confirmation process for the new Seattle Police Chief.
- Approved a budget that will allow for implementation of the Neighborhood Policing Plan and a more effective deployment of patrol officers.
- Provided funding to implement the City Auditor's recommendations to better control graffiti.

Race and Social Justice

- Integrated the City Council and Executive's Race and Social Justice (RSJ) initiatives.
- Supported and participated in the Race and Social Justice Community Round Table, which is seeking to expand the City's RSJ work to the broader Seattle community.

- Conducted a community meeting on low-income utility assistance, and formally requested that the Human Services Department review and recommend improvements to its enrollment process for low income utility customers.
- Created the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities and the Seattle Youth Commission; and restored staffing for Commission support proposed for elimination in the Mayor's budget.

Local Food

- In cooperation with the Mayor, declared 2010 the Year of Urban Agriculture.
- Adopted zoning changes to encourage urban agriculture.
- Worked with the Department of Neighborhoods and the Mayor's office to develop a Food Action Plan that provides a policy framework and identifies next steps the City can take to strengthen its food systems work.
- Worked with the Puget Sound Regional Council to create a Regional Food Policy Council (RFPC), and designated the RFPC as an advisory body to the City of Seattle.

Neighborhoods

- Recognized three neighborhood plan updates for neighborhoods near light rail stations.
- Restored most proposed budget reductions to the Department of Neighborhoods, and created a work plan to develop a staffing approach to neighborhood outreach and capacity building that is consistent with the financial resources that are now available.
- Adopted a new Major Institution Master Plan for Children's Hospital.
- Created a civil infraction for nighttime disturbances in nightlife districts such as fighting, threats and excessive noise, improving public safety, livability, and economic vitality.

Domestic Violence

- Hosted a forum on domestic violence that specifically explored how housing needs and homelessness affect the victims of domestic violence.
- Consistent with the recommendations of this workshop, provided funding for training to improve shelter operators' sensitivity to the needs of domestic violence victims.

INVEST PUBLIC RESOURCES FAIRLY AND EFFECTIVELY

Budget

- Adopted a sustainable budget that preserves critical public safety and human services, minimizes impacts to other direct services, and reduces the overall costs of City government.
- Reached an agreement with the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) that allowed restoration of prioritized human service programs.

Clean Energy

- Approved updates to the Seattle Energy Code that will increase the energy-efficiency and reduce the “carbon footprint” of new buildings and those targeted for major renovation.
- Approved new financial policies for City Light and took actions to fully fund City Light’s Rate Stabilization Account, which will minimize future rate fluctuations.
- Approved new Conservation Potential Assessment that identifies nearly 95 average megawatt hours of savings over the next ten years, and purchases of renewable power attributes consistent with Initiative 937 from one geothermal project and one wind project.

Viaduct and SR 520

- Adopted an increase in the Commercial Parking Tax to fund Seawall work and secured support from the King County Flood District for additional Seawall funding.
- Continued work with Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to advance the Viaduct Replacement Program, including endorsing draft agreements between the City and State regarding project implementation.
- Provided oversight of on-going work to plan the redevelopment of Seattle’s waterfront after the removal of the Viaduct.
- Successfully engaged WSDOT regarding the design of the SR 520 project and helped drive design changes that will protect Seattle’s interests while keeping the project on schedule.

Transportation Choices

- Formed a Transportation Benefit District and authorized a \$20 Vehicle License Fee to help address the City’s transportation needs.
- Selected a preferred route for the First Hill Streetcar.
- Successfully worked with the diverse members of the King County regional Transit Task Force to develop recommendations about how to more effectively allocate future transit service.
- Established the Citizens Transportation Advisory Committee III to provide recommendations about future transportation needs and to identify funding sources to support infrastructure improvements that serve bicycles and pedestrians.

Access and Transparency

- Continued to improve transparency of Council’s legislative process and to enhance access to City resources and services through technological tools such as the public engagement portal.
- Adopted new public hearing procedures for capital projects and public/private partnerships.